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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Turkey/Trans-Jordan

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Visit of King Abdallah to Turkey

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SUPPLEMENT

Security Measures for Protection of King Abdallah

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1. It has been reported that, in order to protect King Abdallah during his visit to Istanbul in January 1947, the local police authorities received orders from Ankara to arrest temporarily a large number of Palestine Jews living in Istanbul.

Syrian Reactions to Visit of King Abdallah

On the very day of the arrival in Ankara of King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan, Ihsan Sharif, the Syrian Minister to Ankara, was unexpectedly called to Damascus for consultations, leaving his secretary, Salim Ilyas, as Charge d'Affaires.

Syrian diplomatic circles maintain that all the negotiations conducted between Turkey and various Arab personalities for the last eighteen months, beginning with the visit of Nuri Sa'id Pasha of Iraq, followed by the Lebanese President and now by King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan, had but one aim, namely, to isolate Syria from the other members of the Arab League and to force her eventually to accept the Turkish point of view on the Hatay question.

To avoid being present during King Abdallah's visit to Ankara, Ihsan Sharif left that city without having attended the banquet given by Recep Peker, the Turkish Prime Minister, in honor of His Majesty, to which all Arab Chiefs of Mission had been invited.

Arab circles in Turkey are quite unanimously hostile toward King Abdallah, and condemn him for his foreign policy and for his ambition to play a leading political role in the Near East.

Syrian diplomatic circles are of the opinion that this visit of King Abdallah was almost entirely a result of the personal initiative of President Ismet Inönü, and attribute the Turkish isolationist policy toward Syria directly to the President himself. They support this claim by pointing out that in the various speeches exchanged at Çankaya Palace about collaboration between Turkey and the Arab states, no mention whatever was made of Syria.

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7. There are a number of indications of the possibility of a marriage between King Abdallah's son, Prince Naif, who accompanied him to Turkey, and the daughter of President Inönü. Prince Naif is a friend of the Inönü family, and was actually the President's honorary aide de camp while pursuing his military studies in Ankara.

Egyptian Reactions to King Abdallah's Visit to Turkey

The Egyptian Consul General in Istanbul, Hasan Shafiq, implied that there could no longer be any question of King Faruq's visiting Turkey, since the precedence accorded to King Abdallah of Trans-Jordan would involve considerable loss of prestige to Faruq.

He is said to have added that Egyptian circles both in Turkey and in Cairo looked with distinct disfavor upon the visit of King Abdallah, and viewed with distrust any increase in the friendly relations between Turkey and Trans-Jordan.

The Egyptian Minister to Ankara, Amin Fu'ad, arrived there on 13 January, having waited over in Beirut until after the departure of King Abdallah from Turkey. It is reported that the Minister did not deny that his delay was primarily in accordance with instructions to avoid His Majesty, the King of Trans-Jordan, but that he did deny rumors published in the press about a possible visit of King Faruq of Egypt to Turkey. He is said to have remarked, "A King Faruq cannot follow a King Abdallah."

Russian Reactions to Visit of King Abdallah

The Russian Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Erchov, gave as an explanation for not attending the banquet of Recep Peker, Turkish Prime Minister, that Moscow had not yet recognized the independence of the new Kingdom of Trans-Jordan. However, Erchov is said to have claimed privately that his Embassy would have nothing to do with a "British agent."

When King Abdallah held a press conference for Turkish and foreign journalists, Cheribinin, the Russian journalist, did not attend.

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